(c) if so, in the era of consumer culture whether there is any scheme to develop the cities of the country like Bangkok, Singapore, Kualalumpur, Dubai, Hong Kong etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) This Ministry is not aware of the research studies that indicate India is advancing to be a developed nation and an economic superpower.

(b) to (d) Urban Development is a State subject. It is, therefore, for the States to take necessary action. This Ministry, however, provides assistance to States by way of guidelines for preparation of perspective plans, development plans and projects and schemes, as well as measures for financing urban infrastructure; Central assistance for development of infrastrcuture through Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz.*, Integrated Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, Mega City Scheme and Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme.

There is also a proposal to set up National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM) for select cities and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) for other cities to provide reform-linked Central assistance for development of infrastructure. On-going Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz.* Integrated Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, Mega City Scheme, Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme are proposed to be subsumed in the proposed NURM.

Improvement of urban infrastructure in Kerala

785. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish an urban Study Centre in Kerala and to improve urban infrastructure in selected placed of Kerala during 2005;

(b) if so, the present status thereof including the estimated expenditure and the period of completion of the project and the places suggested/ selected for the project;

(c) whether there is a proposal for initiating an "Urban Fund" as a part of the above project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) A memorandum dated 11.7.2005 on major urban development issues in Kerala was given to Union Minister of Urban Development during his recent visit to Kochi, Kerala.

The memorandum *inter-alia* consists of the following proposals:

(i) support of Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Kerala's Sustainable Urban Development Project covering five muncipal corporations of Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Kochi, Thrissur and Kozhikode at a total project cost of Rs. 1210.37 crore. Period of the completion of the project has not been indicated in the proposal.

(ii) Assistance of the Ministry of Urban Development for setting up of a Centre for Urban Studies in Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA).

Proposal for Kerala Sustainable Urban Development Project is at preliminary stage of examination.

At present there is no scheme under which Central assistance can be provided to any State for setting up a Centre for Urban Studies.

(c) and (d) Kerala's Sustainable Urban Development Project mentioned in the memorandum provides for creation of an "Urban Fund" to be created as a part of the project so that other municipalities can benefit from it.

Maintenance of Deer Park

†786. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that maintenance of "Deer Park" in Hauz Khas area of Delhi is entrusted to Delhi Development Authority but due to its improper maintenance during the last few years it is likely to be withdrawn from the DDA;

(b) if so, the problems due to which the park could not be properly maintained; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.